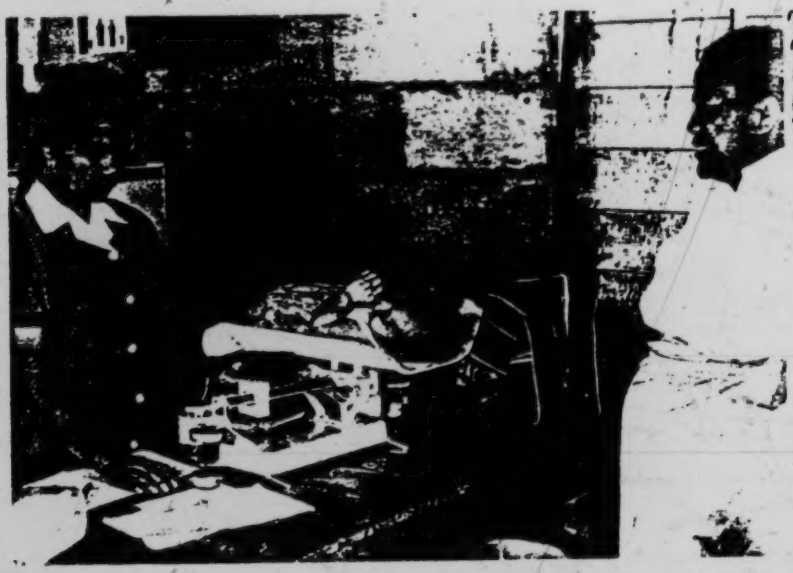
39: Gerstle & Raitt C,Q-4,5 (1952-1972) 1974 OU9 Tonga OU9



749
759
405
142
291

Medical service is free in Tonga. Modern medicine is thriving, and there are hospitals on all the main islands. Outreach clinics are also held periodically in villages, such as this photo (above) of a student nurse, Susitina 'Ofa, running a well-baby clinic in Kolomotu'a. Meanwhile, Tongan folk medicine is still practiced widely. In the photo at right, 'Ana Koka obtains scrapings from a *lepohina* branch (a variety of the castor-oil plant) to prepare a remedy for her sick son, 'Afa, in 'Ohonua, 'Eua. Liquid made from the inner bark is used for treating fever or inflammation, and it can also serve as a laxative.

824
757

'Oku ta'etotongi e faito'o kotoa ki he kakai Tonga. 'Oku fu'u manakoa 'aupito e faito'o fakapapalangi, 'o hange ko ia 'oku ha 'i he ta 'i 'olunga. Ko e ta'ahine neesi akoako ia ko Susitina 'Ofa 'i he fale sivi pepe 'i Kolomotu'a. Ka neongo ia, 'oku kei malohi 'aupito pe foki mo e faito'o fakatonga, 'o hange ko ia 'oku ha 'i he ta 'i to'omata'u. Ko 'Ana Koka ia 'oku ne vauvau ha va'a lepohina ke 'ai 'aki ha faito'o ma'a hono ki'i foha ko 'Afa. Ko e ongo me'a eni mei 'Ohonua, 'Eua.

/149 cont./
have long since been replaced by sturdy English metal pots and kettles. Coconut-meat graters (hakalo) can be found in every household, but the natives have fastened to the tripods (tree branches) or to the simple boards, serrated, flat bar iron instead of shells. On the whole, only a few families still eat banana leaves (or leaves of the breadfruit tree). (395)

395. At feasts, however, banana leaves are still plentifully used.

Today, in all households, there are earthenware or tin plates, and cups and mugs for drinking. Many households own table knives, forks, and spoons which, however, are scarcely ever used, since people still generally eat with their fingers (often directly out of the bowls instead of on plates). Tin and earthenware jugs are common, and often one also sees glasses and glass pitchers for the popular native and European refreshing drinks.

The increase of imported European goods in Tongan households has in some cases increased to a complete adoption of European furnishing which may consist of beds, cupboards, chests of drawers, tables, easy chairs, straight chairs, wall clocks, framed pictures and even pianos, of which some things have been inherited by half-castes. Even in these cases, however, the old Tongan life has usually proved stronger than the compulsion for foreign furnishings, for the owner will continue to sit crosslegged on the floor.

Thus in the field of Tongan household equipment it is to be observed that essential elements of the old Tongan furnishings (seat mats, bed, kava bowl) have been preserved, though in altered forms, that some ancient cultural assets (headrests, certain baskets, lamps, bottle gourds, wooden containers) have been lost and are at present disappearing, and that many European objects have been adopted, which to the Tongans seems useful of superior to corresponding